

From: John P. Kopp
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 4:21pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

John Kopp
342 Wellington Rd
Mineola, N.Y. 11501

January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

When the federal government decided to pursue Microsoft in an antitrust suit three years ago, the intention was to determine if Microsoft exercised unfair market advantage in the software industry. The result that the plaintiffs (including the government) in the suit did not consider was the harm to other businesses in the technology industry created by the lawsuit.

Unlike other software companies, Microsoft has an open platform that allows many manufacturers of computer software and hardware to be profitable due in part to the enormous investment Microsoft placed in creating the Windows operating system. Being involved in the video industry, I do a great deal of work with computers. The truth is, creating the highly complex codes that are needed to support the programs used in business these days can only be done by a company that has vast economic resources and technical expertise. By harming Microsoft, the lawsuit is harming companies that are dependent on its software for their livelihoods.

Thanks to the extremely low price of the Windows operating system, computers and technology have found the widespread use that benefits all of us. For this and many other reasons, I am in support of this settlement.

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Sincerely,

John Kopp

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